



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ITS LAUREL CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY

SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

PRESSMEN'S CONVENTION NOTES

Washington, July 6.--At the recent convention of the International Printing Pressmen's union at Hale Springs, Tenn., an assessment of 25 cents per member per month was levied, to continue until September; to prosecute the fight for the universal eight-hour day. The question of increasing the international per capita tax is to be submitted to a referendum vote. It was decided to make an additional expenditure of \$60,000 for improvements and additions to the Pressmen's home. In addition a referendum vote will be taken on a proposition to levy a 5 per cent assessment to carry on the fight that was recently inaugurated in Chicago.

REPORT VINDICATES FEELMAN

Washington, July 6.--In the internecine difficulties confronting District No. 5 of Pennsylvania, United Mine Workers, an investigation and report has been submitted to President Joan P. White. The International executive board authorized an investigation into the alleged charges involving the administration of President Frank's Feelman and the committee having the investigation in charge finds the allegations against Feelman not sustained. All disputants have an appeal from the committee's findings to the international executive board.

SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT

Washington, July 6.--After a favorable strike vote had been taken by the organizations in the operating department of the Pennsylvania Railroad company on its lines east of Pittsburg and Erie, an understanding was arrived at whereby concessions were offered by the company and arbitration agreed to on matters still in dispute. It is provided that in the event of the company extending the electrification of its lines the steam railroad men affected shall hold their positions or ones paying them the same wages.

MARITIME STRIKE

New York, July 6.--A strike of maritime organizations directed against coastwise lines is in progress at the ports of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Norfolk and Galveston and other ports. It is reported that a number of shipping companies have acceded to the demands made and signed agreements. Higher wages and better conditions are demanded by the sailors, firemen and oilers.

MITCHELL TO BE SENTENCED

Washington, July 6.--Justice Wright has signed the formal judgments of contempt against President Gompers and Secretary Morrison, but declined to pass sentence upon John Mitchell in his absence. The justice expressed doubt as to the wisdom of passing sentence in the absence of the accused, but advised Attorney Ralston, in charge of the Federation's defense, that a written request from John Mitchell would be considered. That course will be pursued. In reply to the interview given to the press immediately after sentences were passed, Justice Wright criticised President Gompers for having asserted that he (Gompers) had "been informed that the opinion had been prepared for more than a month, but held up until after the Chicago convention." The justice stated that "he was deliberately and falsely misrepresented." On its own initiative the court refused to assess the costs of the contempt proceedings, amounting to \$1,500, against the respondents, although a motion to that end was prepared and presented by the "committee of prosecutors" appointed by the court.

INSIST ON UNION LABEL

Washington, July 6.--The North Dakota Advocate, published at Fargo, N. D., prints the following: "Word comes from Grand Forks that a number of the county officers from various parts of the state are demanding the union label on their blank books, and they are being readily supplied. When it is considered that outside of the large cities of the state the average person rarely comes in contact with trade unionism, this is indeed a tribute to trade unionism. The knowledge of the public in an agricultural state, such as North Dakota, is confined principally to reading the highly colored stories in the daily press about a strike in some part of the country, which is intended to prejudice the mind of the reader."

ATTEMPTED TO CRUSH UNIONS

Washington, July 6.--The manner in which the coal operators and the state of Pennsylvania co-operated during the coal strike in Westmoreland county to crush out labor unions and to defeat the purpose of the strike is shown in an exhaustive report of an investigation into conditions there made by the Department of Commerce and Labor, and recently transmitted to congress in response to a resolution introduced by Congressman Gregg of Pennsylvania. Much of the matter included in the report was made public at the time of the strike. It is likely now that the reports will be published and given wide publicity for the purpose of showing the extreme methods resorted to in the effort made by the coal operators to crush out the miners' unions.

SHIPYARD UNREST

London, July 6.--The recent decision of the federated employers to refuse the demands of the shipyard workers for an eight-hour day and an increase of wages to piece workers has brought about a situation that may develop into a big strike. The shipbuilding trades have been preparing for a contest, and all organizations involved have been assiduously engaged in strengthening their unions. If a strike occurs it will involve 500,000 men directly, and indirectly a half million more. It is stated that all the conciliatory machinery has been brought into play, but without success. The result of a strike vote seems to be a foregone conclusion as being favorable to a strike.

CARPENTER MOVEMENTS

Indianapolis, Ind., July 6.--General Secretary Frank Duffy of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, reports the following successful trade movements for the past week: At Rutland, Vt. a reduction in hours from 9 to 8 per day has been secured after a brief strike. At DeKalb, Ill., an increase in wages has been secured from \$3.40 to \$3.80 per day. At Michigan City, Ind., an increase in wages of 5¢ per hour has been granted, the minimum wage being 45¢ per hour, and a reduction in hours from 9 to 8 per day. At Corpus Christi, Texas; an increase in wages has been secured from \$3.20 to \$3.60 per day. At Sydney, N. S., an increase has been granted from \$2.70 to \$3.00 per day. At Peckville, Va., an increase in wages has been secured from \$2.80 to \$3.00 per day. New local unions were organized in the following cities during the month of June: Providence, R. I. (bridge carpenters); Transcona, Canada; Smithtown, N.Y.; Red Deer, Alberta, Can.; Ridgeway, Ont.; Stratford, Conn., (railroad); Reading, Mass.; Sebastian, Fla.; Grand Forks, N. D.; Iron River, Mich.; Higbee, Mo.; Indianapolis, Ind. (parquet floor layers).

NEW CONSTITUTION EFFECTIVE

Quincy, Mass., July 6.--On July 1 the rules and regulations forming the new constitution of the Granite Cutters' International Association went into effect, and James Duncan, International President, reports that the membership of the organization, as well as employers, are favorably impressed with the provisions in the new constitution which, from a humanitarian standpoint, provide for more healthful conditions for the man behind the hammer, more leisure, in that overtime is to be undesirable, and with a Saturday half holiday new baseball leagues have been formed among the cutters, which means better health, more cheerful manhood, release from the dust of the shop, and breaking up of the "icebergs" between granite cutters and their employers, for the latter are joining with the former in baseball contests. This brings the best that is in them to the front and cultivates better feelings than six full days of hard, unremitting toil, and no possibility of employer and employees meeting for an outing and becoming better acquainted.

FOX MONUMENT DEDICATED

Cincinnati, July 6.--On July 5 the monument erected to the memory of Martin Fox was unveiled at Calvary Cemetery. Martin Fox was one of the brilliant figures in the organized labor movement, and as president of the International Iron Holders' Union, he achieved a reputation for integrity and ability second to none. The ceremonies consisted of addresses by President Gompers and Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor; Joseph Valentine, president of the International Iron Holders' Union, and John P. Frye, editor of the Iron Holders' Journal, together with numerous other well known trade unionists.

LOOKING FOR BETTER CONDITIONS

Detroit, July 6.--The Detroit branch of the Granite Cutters' International Association has been in suspension for a new agreement since May, 1912, and at the end of June the men remain solid for the improved conditions desired in their new proposition. Three firms have signed for the increase from \$3.25 minimum per day to \$3.60 per day and the other firms are expected to settle in time to start up under a new agreement after July 4.

ENGINEMEN AND FIREMEN

London, July 6.--Officials of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants have just secured a favorable decision under the new conciliation scheme. The result of the award is that better conditions have been obtained for the Great Western railway engine-men and firemen. They are now to have a week's wage guaranteed and will be paid time and a quarter for overtime. The Sunday duty will be separate from the ordinary week's work, and each man will be promoted to second class scale wages five years earlier. It is also provided that an increase allowance will be made for preparation of engines, and other improved conditions. The new scale gives advances from 7s to 7s 6d in four years instead of five years, and 2,100 firemen will receive an advance of 1s 6d per week.

BUILDING TRADES VICTORIOUS

Wheeling, W. Va., July 6.--One of the greatest victories ever gained by union labor in the Ohio Valley has just been won. The largest carpenter contractors of this city, who have been fighting the combined building crafts, signed an agreement with the representatives of the Ohio Valley District Council of Carpenters and the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly. The contest which has been conducted by the building trades was against a strong combination of "open shop" advocates. The result of securing the agreement will be beneficial to all of the organizations in this valley.

LOS ANGELES BUILDING TRADES

Los Angeles, July 6.--The Building Trades Council of this city recently determined to make an effort to inaugurate the union shop among the building trades. In accordance therewith a number of strikes have been called, but as a result of the first week of the contest 120 jobs have been unionized and the applications coming in to the various building trades organizations indicate that the movement will undoubtedly prove a success. This contest is being backed by the California State Building Trades and will be prosecuted with vigor.

VOLUNTARY WAGE INCREASE

Kalamazoo, July 6.--Four of the biggest paper mill companies in this city have announced a voluntary increase to their employes. To all workmen receiving less than \$2.25 per day an increase of 7½ per cent has been granted; to workmen receiving over \$2.25 per day 2½ per cent increase is given. Over 1,000 men are affected.

LAUNDRY WORKERS' IMPROVEMENTS

Troy, N. Y., July 6.--Local unions of Laundry Workers in Toledo, O., and Butte, Mont., have succeeded in securing agreements for the coming year for the use of the Laundry Workers' Label, with improved conditions. Butte, Mont., secured the eight-hour day.

AMALGAMATED TOOL MAKERS

London, July 6.--The annual report of the executive council of the Society of Amalgamated Tool Makers, Engineers and Machinists, shows a membership of over 6,600, and a gain during the past year of 1,453. The reserve fund held by this organization is over \$120,000.

BREWERY STRIKE SETTLED

Washington, July 6.--It is reported from Milwaukee that the strike of the building trades unions at the breweries of that city has ended in securing a satisfactory agreement. The settlement carries with it an increase in wages approximating 2½ cents per hour to most of the trades involved, while some organizations receive a greater advance. The strike was inaugurated May 21 and involved about twelve organizations.

FLINT GLASS WORKERS

Washington, July 6.--The convention of the American Flint Glass Workers will convene in Montreal, Can., July 8. From information received it is expected that the question of affiliation with the American Federation of Labor will be considered, with a likelihood of favorable action. Since the working agreement reached between the "Greens" and the "Flints" it is apprehended that the friction heretofore existing has been eliminated.

LABOR TEMPLE DEDICATED

Utica, N. Y., July 6.--The corner stone of Utica's Labor temple was laid with appropriate ceremonies on July 4, 1911. Since that time the edifice has been completed and on July 4, 1912, dedicatory exercises were held. William D. Huber, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, delivered the principal address. The building is a creditable monument to the persistent endeavor of Utica's union men.

BREWERY WORKERS SUCCESSFUL

Holyoke, Mass., July 6.--After several joint meetings the management of the Frank Jones, Eldredge and Portsmouth Brewing companies and the Brewery Workers' union have agreed on a new schedule of wages and hours, the same going into effect July 1. The increase in wages amounts to \$1 per week in every department, with 50 cents per hour overtime and holiday work, the agreement to run for two years.

CARPENTERS TO GET SHORTER DAY

Grand Rapids, Mich., July 6.--In answer to a communication sent by the carpenters to the contractors seeking a shorter work day, it is reported that a favorable answer has been returned. The carpenters of this city have made a valiant fight for better conditions in the past, and are still persistent in their efforts, with a bright outlook for the future.

A GREAT CONVENTION

Brainerd, Minn., July 6.--The Minnesota State Federation of Labor, the sessions of which recently closed, was the most successful convention ever held by the state body. A large attendance was present and a large amount of constructive work accomplished. The old officers were generally re-elected.

LINEMEN ON STRIKE

Louisville, Ky., July 6.--The linemen of this city recently made a demand for an increase from \$2.75 to \$3.00, and foremen from \$3.00 to \$3.25. The Kentucky Electric Company refused to accede to the demands of the linemen and a strike followed.

DECISIONS FAVOR LABOR

Springfield, Ill., July 6.--Three decisions have recently been handed down by the state supreme court which are important to the organized labor movement. The court sustained the constitutionality of the women's ten-hour employment act, as revised by the legislature in 1911, also the constitutionality of the chauffeur's license automobile act and the right of labor unions to call strikes or use any lawful means in maintaining and furthering their organizations. The court held that "it was of the opinion that the limiting of the hours of employment of females in hotels to not exceed ten hours a day is not an unauthorized exercise of the police powers of the state." The decisions in the three cases opens the way for further social legislation.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Washington, July 6.--Discussion of the establishment of a Federal University, to be supported by government funds, will be renewed at the 50th annual meeting of the National Education Association, which is to be held in Chicago July 6-12. This association is the largest organization of its kind in the world, and it is expected that 50,000 people will be in attendance at the meeting. Other topics to be considered will include industrial education, manual training and art, the American high school, the relation of the public schools to social welfare work, and to public health and rural life conditions and education.

ENGLISH RAILWAY CONCESSIONS

London, July 6.--The Midland railway has recently agreed to an advance in wages of its employes, and the committee representing the workmen accepted the concessions, but the employes are refusing to accept the settlement, claiming that the adjustment is unsatisfactory, and the outcome is shrouded in much doubt. The London and North-Western railway has also made a number of important changes in the working conditions, (and they have been accepted by the employes.), and went into operation July 4, and are to remain in force until January 1 next.

HORSESHOERS' CONVENTION

Washington, July 6.--The International Union of Journeymen Horse-shoers recently held their convention in Grand Rapids, Mich. The Officers for the coming term are: John T. Kane of Chicago, president; Herbert Cary and Homer Michaelson, first and second vice presidents respectively. Herbert Marshall was re-elected secretary-treasurer, and Rody Kenchan was elected delegate to the American Federation of Labor. The next convention will be held in Memphis, Tenn.

HOD CARRIERS STRIKE

Scranton, Pa., July 6.--The hod carriers and building laborers in this city went on strike on June 5 for an increased wage scale. While no adjustment of the difficulty has been reached indications point to an early settlement, as all construction work is at a standstill.

ADVANCE WAGES

Cardiff, July 6.--A general advance in wages has been granted to the Cardiff corporation employes on account of the heavy increase in the cost of living.

LOOKING TOWARD AMALGAMATION

Washington, July 6.--As reported in the News Letter before there is a movement on foot in various places to amalgamate organizations in the shoe manufacturing industry, there being numerous local organizations outside the regular and recognized Boot and Shoe Workers' union. The latter organization has been hampered in its work by unions in the shoe trade not affiliated and antagonistic, but withal the Boot and Shoe Workers have steadily made advances in wages and conditions. The Artisan, published at Holyoke, Mass., is authority for the statement that meetings have recently been held between the representatives of unions in the shoe trade with a view to "getting together" under the banner of the recognized organization, and with a prospect of final success.

BAKERS WIN IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco, July 6.--The strike of the bakers in this city for the introduction of the union label has resulted in favor of the bakers. Over 250 members participated in the strike, and 144 bakeries were involved. All but 15 have signed the new agreement, which contains a label clause. It is stated that the main fear of the San Francisco employers was that the local union would establish its own bakery. The San Jose Baking Company, which employs union bakers, has already made heavy inroads into the business of the shops where the men were on strike, and this has had great influence in inducing the employers to accept the agreement.

COURT NULLIFIES LAWS

Boston, Mass., July 6.--Several years ago the legislature passed an act prohibiting the adoption of any system of grading the work of a weaver that would affect his pay, except in the case of imperfection. Last year an act was passed prohibiting the imposition of fines for imperfections. A case was recently taken to court against a company firing one of its employees and the lower court returned a verdict in favor of the employee. An appeal was taken and a decision has just been handed down nullifying the law, which will permit the reintroduction of the firing system. It has not yet been decided whether an appeal will be taken but it is likely.

ENGLISH SHOPS ACT

Washington, July 6.--The shops act passed by parliament in London secures to the clerks a weekly half holiday. This was accomplished largely through the organization, but the extent of the organization is restricted owing to the apathy among the drapers. There was an effort made to incorporate in the act a limitation of hours and prohibition of Sunday trading. The main reason why these two latter provisions failed was due to the weakness of the organization, numerically and otherwise. The weekly half holiday, on its inauguration, was made an event of general rejoicing.

SHINGLE WEAVER MOVEMENTS

Seattle, Wash., July 6.--A local union of shingle weavers has been instituted at Anacortes, this state, with a good membership. The shingle industry is in a more healthy and promising condition than for many years, and as a consequence organization among the employees is developing with greater rapidity than ever before. Many agreements have been signed within the recent past, all uniform in character and expiring March 1, 1914. All wage scales secured are above the international minimum scale.

Washington, July 6.--According to a statement just issued by the census bureau it is averred that despite the heavy immigration to this country during the ten years, 1900 to 1910, the proportion of illiterates for continental United States was less in all of the nine geographic divisions and in all states, except New York and Connecticut. In these states, in which the proportion of illiterates was about the same, the actual number of illiterates was much larger because of the heavy influx of foreign born whites. Owing to the same cause the number of illiterates has increased in many other states, though the proportion, with regard to the entire population in each state, has diminished materially.

ERIE CARPENTERS GET INCREASE

Erie, Pa., July 6.--One of the largest contracting firms in this city has just announced its compliance with the scale of wages agreed upon last spring between the employers and the carpenters' union, in that they have received notice in their pay envelopes that the increase to 40¢ per hour would be paid thereafter. It is expected that other contracting firms will immediately follow.

MAILERS SECURE INCREASE

Los Angeles, July 6.--Negotiations have been in progress for a considerable length of time between representatives of the mailers and the daily papers of this city accept the Times. An agreement has been reached which is satisfactory to all concerned and runs until December 31, 1914. An increase of 25¢ per day, with the union shop, are the two salient provisions in the contract.

WEAVERS GET INCREASE

London, July 6.--At a joint meeting of representatives of the Employers' Association and the Amalgamated Association of Beamers, Twisters, Drawers and Machine Workers held recently at Blackburn an application was made for a 5¢ advance and several changes in conditions. The employers conceded the 5¢ advance, and the new scale was accepted and went into effect July 1.

CORSET WORKERS STRIKE OFF

Kalamazoo, Mich., July 6.--After a strike stretching out over a year the corsetmakers and their employers have reached an adjustment of their difficulties. An agreement has been signed which calls for the gradual reinstatement of the strikers. It is stated, however, that considerable friction is apparent, but it is hoped that it will soon cease.

BOILERMAKERS' CONVENTION

Little Rock, Ark., July 6.--The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers in convention in this city recently, after transacting the business before the convention, re-elected W. J. A. Franklin, president, and W. J. Gilthorpe, secretary-treasurer, unanimously. John P. Casey of Kansas City was elected official editor of the Boilermakers' Journal.

There are fifteen trade unionists in Congress. By persistent effort this number can be doubled. Let's make the effort.

MINNEAPOLIS BUILDING TRADES

Minneapolis, July 6.--During the past year the building trades organizations have been bitterly fought by the Builders' and Traders' Exchange. This latter organization has been endeavoring to destroy the unions by devious means, the principal manner in which they have worked being the insertion of alluring advertisements for mechanics in the news papers in the northwest, misrepresenting the conditions in this city. This has had the effect of producing a condition whereby large numbers of men are idle. The building trades council, however, is prosecuting a vigorous campaign against the union busters, and headway is being made.

ATTEMPT TO DESTROY UNION

Wheeling, W. Va., July 6.--A deliberate attempt is being made by the management of the Imperial Glass Company at Bellaire to destroy the union of glass packers in its employ. The plan being pursued is to present each workman with a typewritten letter, in which is included an application for a position, stipulating wages, and the following clause: "In making this application I promise to work solely for the interest of the Imperial Glass company, without any attempt to belong to or to help to form a packers' union, until such action is taken by the packers in all other glass factories which now co-operate with the American Flint Glass Workers' Union."

BENEFITS FOR LAUNDRY WORKERS

Worcester, Mass., July 6.--The employees of the union laundry, numbering about 100, have been agreeably surprised by the management of the company announcing that a plan had been inaugurated whereby in the future every employe when sick would receive the sum of \$4. a week for thirteen weeks and a funeral benefit of \$50 in case of death. The plan has been adopted without cost to the employees.

SIGN UP WITH PRINTERS

Duluth, Minn., July 6.--The newspaper publishers of this city have signed a two year agreement with the Typographical union, by which all employes in the composing room will receive an increase of \$1 per week for the first year and \$2 per week for the second year and thereafter. All overtime after Jan. 1, 1913, will be paid for at the rate of time and a half. The union shop prevails.

INCREASE FOR FREIGHT HANDLERS

Winnipeg, Man., July 6.--The freight handlers have just secured an advance in wages. Truckers get an increase from 18 cents per hour and \$2 per day after six months' service to \$2 and \$2.10, storers from 21 cents to 25 cents, checkers from \$52.50 and \$65 per month to \$57.50 and \$70. This is the second increase in ten months. All roads entering this city are paying the advanced scale.

USED LABEL ILLEGALLY

Minneapolis, July 6.--The Great Western Printing company of this city pleaded guilty recently to illegally using the allied printing trades' label and a fine of \$50 was assessed. The union label was used without authority in the publication of the election laws.

Fifteen trade union congressmen help some. Thirty will help more.

RIGHT OF UNION SUSTAINED

St. Louis, July 6.--A case involving the right of unions to execute their law was taken to the courts in Tacoma, Wash., recently. A member of the local union of American Federation of Musicians began legal proceedings to compel his reinstatement in the local union without a corresponding compliance with laws in force in the local union. The court before which the case was brought dismissed the petition, thus sustaining the local union in its position of insisting on the enforcement of its laws.

MOLDERS ON STRIKE

Utica, N. Y., July 6.--In three non-union foundries in this city the molders have been organized and are out on strike for better conditions. In 1904 a strike occurred in these same shops, but Polish and Italian workmen took the places of the strikers and defeated the purpose of the strike. The foundries are at a complete stand-still now, and it is believed that a settlement will be reached within a short time.

DUNKIRK ACTIVITIES

Dunkirk, N. Y., July 6.--The labor movement here has taken on renewed activity recently. Organizations of painters, tailors and street car men have been completed with an encouraging membership. The machinist local has increased its membership by about 300, and other organizations in the iron trades are increasing numerically. The central body is energetically engaged in meeting the responsibilities imposed.

RAILWAY CARMEN

Kansas City, July 6.--The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen has contributed recently to the Illinois Central and Harriman system strikers, as well as the strikers on the M. K. & T., approximately \$7,525. Local organizations of carmen have just been organized at Fort Worth, Texas, and Humbolt, Saskatchewan, Canada. Reports coming into headquarters of the carmen indicate an increasing membership.

FORM STATE ORGANIZATION

Minneapolis, July 6.--The Building Trades Organizations of Minnesota took the preliminary steps to organize a State Building Trades Council at the recent meeting of the State Federation at Brainerd. Temporary officers have been elected and committees appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws.

CITY LABORERS WIN

Berlin, N. H., July 6.--Recently the laborers in the employ of the city street maintenance department struck for higher wages. They asked for an advance from \$1.75 to \$2.00 per day. A compromise settlement was reached the day following the strike, and the laborers returned to work at \$1.85 per day.

SPINNERS AND WEAVERS

Burlington, Vt., July 6.--It is reported by Organizer Cal Wyatt of the American Federation of Labor, that a union of spinners and also a union of weavers has recently been formed at Winooski, a suburb of this city.